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ORATION OF HON. JOHN H. FAR-  
QUHAR.  
Delivered at Shelbyville, Indiana, July  
4th, 1867.

This morning we are in the 151st Anni-  
versary of our Independence. It is a  
day in memory of the past and prospects for  
the future. How grateful we should be,  
and how grateful we are to God who giveth  
us so plentifully. The harvest stands  
ready for the reaper, and our broad, cul-  
tivated lands grow with their unparalleled  
abundance. From all parts of this now  
widely extended Republic we have assur-  
ance that the agriculturalist is promised that  
reward which was foretold by a pro-  
phetic writer, "unusually early spring  
showers and warm summer days. There  
probably never was in the history of this  
country a period when all of its interests  
and future hopes seemed so dependent  
upon and concentrated in the success of  
the growing crops. For months you could  
not take up a newspaper, from the metro-  
politan journals to the humblest of our  
faithful chroniclers, that in some way did  
not allude to the prospect and importance  
of the expected harvest. It was not con-  
fined to the editorial quill, but was the  
uppermost theme with the banker, mer-  
chant, lawyer, doctor, manufacturer, me-  
chanic and laborer, all over this broad  
land, and was a dependent, but with many  
unconscious acknowledgments of the Di-  
vine Providence of Almighty God. It be-  
comes us, then, my friends and fellow-  
countrymen, on this anniversary of In-  
dependence Day, to first render thanks unto  
Him as did our Fathers of old, acknowl-  
edging our dependence and His mercy  
and goodness toward us. We fully realize  
to-day the fulfillment of the promise di-  
vine that "I will establish my covenant  
with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off  
any more by the waters of a flood; neither  
shall there any more be a flood to destroy  
the earth."

And God said, "This is the token of  
the covenant which I make between me  
and you, and every living creature that is  
with you, for perpetual generations.

"I do set my bow in the cloud, and it  
shall be for a token of a covenant between  
me and the earth; and it shall come to  
pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth,  
that the bow shall be seen in the cloud;  
and I will remember my covenant which is  
between me and you, and every living  
creature of all flesh; and the waters shall  
no more become a flood to destroy all  
flesh; and the bow shall be in the cloud;  
and I will look upon it that I may remem-  
ber the everlasting covenant between God  
and every living creature of all flesh that  
is upon the earth." That "while the earth  
remaineth, seed time and harvest, and  
cold and heat, and summer and winter,  
and day and night shall not cease."

It is the custom with all Christian na-  
tions and people to commemorate with  
becoming ceremonies important epochs in  
their history. To none is it more appro-  
priate than our own. Ours is a govern-  
ment "of the people, from the people and  
for the people." It was founded by the  
people in defiance of repeated failures in  
the old world, and amidst the predictions  
and taunts of the oppressors of mankind.  
The day we celebrate gave new hopes,  
bright joy and a glorious future to the  
down-trodden and oppressed of every land.  
It is the epoch in the world's history to  
be commemorated for all time to come, by  
freemen of every land and every tongue.

On the adoption of the memorable de-  
claration of our Fathers so well and elo-  
quently read to you to-day, the elder John  
Adams, one of its immortal signers, wrote,  
under the inspiration of its adoption, to  
his accomplished wife:

"The 4th day of July, 1776, will be a  
memorable epoch in the history of Amer-  
ica. I am apt to believe that it will be  
celebrated by succeeding generations as  
the great anniversary festival. It ought  
to be consecrated as the day of deliverance  
from the tyrannical oppression of Britain;  
or solemn acts of devotion to Almighty  
God. It ought to be solemnized with  
pomp, shows, games, sports, guns, bells,  
bonfires and illuminations, from one end  
of the continent to the other, from this  
time forward, forever."

"You will think me transported with an  
enthusiasm,—but I am not. I am well  
aware of the toil and blood and treasure  
that it will cost us to maintain this de-  
claration and support and defend these  
States; yet, through all the gloom, I can  
see the rays of light and glory. I can see  
that the end is worth more than all the  
means, and that posterity will triumph,  
although you and I may rue it,—which I  
hope we shall not."

It is a remarkable fact that must arrest  
the attention of every intelligent reader,  
that the men who were foremost and most  
prominent in the struggle for our inde-  
pendence relied with implicit confidence  
in the justice of their cause as recognized  
by Almighty God. They not only appeal-  
ed to Him in their Declaration of Inde-  
pendence, but on all and every proper oc-  
casion acknowledged His interposition in  
the affairs of men, and besought His pro-  
tecting care in their every movement.  
They were emphatically a Christian peo-  
ple, resolved on establishing a Christian  
Government in the light of the example  
and through the territories and Indian  
country, to the Eastern base of the Rocky  
Mountains; there were not within reach,  
with all our railroad facilities, enough of  
the regular army to protect and guard the  
capital of the Nation on that inauguration  
day, and General Scott had to call on the  
citizen soldiery of the District of Colum-  
bia to perform the task. The Navy was  
displaying its colors on every distant sea  
of the Christian world, and without ap-  
parent object or purpose other than to be-  
yond the possible reach of the administra-  
tion, short of many long months, in their  
efforts to execute the laws in support and  
maintenance of the Constitution and the  
Union. The arms and ammunition of the  
Government were moved from the arsenals  
and depositories of the then free States,  
to those in the South in such astounding  
quantities as to elicit public protest, and  
the peremptory prohibition from Govern-

ment, of further removals; and last, though  
not least, the Treasury was bankrupt, the  
Government in debt, and its trust funds  
stolen by the retiring official in charge.  
It was in this condition that President  
Lincoln took office and assumed the im-  
portant responsibilities of his position.  
Without an army and a navy, without  
arms or ammunition—a treasury bankrupt,  
and the Government largely in debt, not-  
withstanding his own honest purpose, confidence  
in God, and the support of a confiding  
and loyal people could have borne him up  
for the duties of the hour. With these  
he went to work and with a will that dem-  
onstrated the mighty power and inex-  
haustible means of the Nation, Armies,  
Navies, Ammunition and Money respon-  
ded as by magic to his call, and in a  
miraculous period of time our Army and  
Navy without precedent in the world's  
history, and our finances in such prosper-  
ous condition that astounded bankers and  
politicians of our own and foreign countries.  
All Europe looked on with profound as-  
tonishment at our miraculous development  
and, though in sympathy with the rebels  
and confident of our downfall, acknowl-  
edged our inexhaustible resources. You  
may well imagine the thrilling effect on the  
congregation; the result was that almost  
every male of suitable age present, enlist-  
ed forthwith, and the pious man of God  
soon rose to the rank of General in the  
army. We owe much, very much, to the  
Christian ministry for the establishment  
of free institutions by our fathers, and  
more, immeasurably more, for their main-  
tenance and perpetuation in the recent  
great struggle to *coerce traitors and sup-  
press their rebellion.*

From thirteen States, we have grown to be  
a giant Republic, so boundless in ex-  
tent and fertility as to baffle the im-  
agination of the most speculative. We  
then boasted 3,000,000 inhabitants, and  
now venture the estimate of 35,000,000,  
scattered from the Lake of the Woods to  
the Rio Grande, on the South, and from  
the Eastern Atlantic to the distant Pa-  
cific of the West. Cities, Towns, Villa-  
ges and hamlets are connected by rail-  
roads and telegraphs, until space is com-  
paratively annihilated and the genius and  
success of man is but a seeming plane be-  
low that of the angels. In the Arts and  
Sciences, as well as in Mechanics,—in Paint-  
ing, Sculpture, Education and all that  
pertains to true national greatness, we  
take rank among the most favored nations  
of the Old World, and in the race that is  
before us, doubt not that we shall outstrip  
them all.

In the midst of all this seeming prosper-  
ity, the work of silent abnegation of  
patriotism and love of the old flag and  
the Union, was going on in the Southern  
States. "The leprosy of human slavery  
was working its silent but sure downfall.  
Its contact with the superior genius of  
freedom, free speech, free press and free  
labor, daily developed its deformity and  
wickedness. Its devotees and worshippers  
were the first to detect its incompatibility,  
and in their malignity resolved on self-  
destruction. For years, Calhoun and his  
followers were schooling the South to this  
work of deterioration, which culminated  
in 1861, under the pretence of resisting  
the fairly expressed will of the people,  
who electing Abraham Lincoln of Illi-  
nois as President of the United States.

When our beloved and martyred Presi-  
dent took office, the Executive de-  
partment of the Government, the demon spirit  
of rebellion had grown so bold and defiant  
that, in the opinion of those then high in  
authority, but faithful still to the Constitu-  
tion and the Union, it was unsafe for him  
to publicly enter the Capital of the Nation,  
and in accordance with their advice did  
actually in disguise enter Washington  
without escort or public reception. Trai-  
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concocting their selfish designs to break  
up and destroy the best government ever  
vouchsafed by God to man. On the day  
of his first inauguration, in addition to the  
tens of thousands of loyal hearts that  
were present to witness the ceremonies of  
the installation of the people's President,  
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